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Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Draft resolution 25/2: Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which provides strong support to system-wide coherence on the implementation of United Nations policy, operational and environmental activities, including humanitarian assistance,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[1] in which it is recognized that the institutional framework for sustainable development should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner and enhance implementation by, among other things, strengthening coherence and coordination, avoiding duplication of effort and reviewing progress in implementing sustainable development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, established key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system and stressed that funding for operational activities should be aligned with the national priorities and plans of the programme countries, as well as the strategic plans, mandates, resource frameworks and priorities of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, recalling also the potential of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its results matrix as the collective, coherent and integrated programming and monitoring framework for the operations of the United Nations development system at the country level, bringing increased opportunities for joint initiatives, including joint programming, and recognizing the need for the United Nations development system to fully utilize such opportunities in the interest of enhancing aid efficiency and aid effectiveness,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the United Nations with a view to enhancing its coherence and efficiency, as well as its capacity to address effectively, and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the full range of development challenges of our time,

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Bearing in mind the need for coherence and balance in the implementation of the normative and operational mandates of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recognizing that the strength of the United Nations and its operational system lies in its legitimacy, at the country level, as a neutral, objective and trusted partner,

Noting the role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in supporting national Governments and local authorities to build capacity and strengthen technical and scientific cooperation, including through urban policies, as appropriate, to promote sustainable urbanization and human settlements,

Reaffirming the support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for United Nations efforts, through inputs, as appropriate, to the annual report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review that provides Member States with an overview of the results achieved, as well as measures and processes implemented in follow-up to the resolution of the General Assembly on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

Acknowledging the decision of the African Union, adopted in Brazzaville in November 2014, to transform the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development into an organ of the African Union through the establishment of a subcommittee on urban development and human settlements under the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization,

Taking note of the outcome of the fifth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, as set out in the Seoul Declaration and Seoul Implementation Plan, as specific action to address the challenges faced by Asian and Pacific countries with regard to sustainable urban development and human settlements and to promote the implementation of programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the region,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to work closely with member States, the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Group to fully implement the most recent resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in the programme of work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, with a view to substantially increasing the efficiency of operational activities at the country level, so as to improve the effectiveness of development results;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the interlinkages between the operational and normative work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme so as to increase its capacity to provide evidence-based expertise for policy design and expertise for the implementation of policies;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to enhance the country programme document mechanism to ensure full alignment with the United Nations development and national development framework priorities of the relevant country, as appropriate, with a view to strengthening national ownership of the country-level activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in the context of the approved work programme and budget and the strategic plan for 2014–2019, to support national Governments to encourage local authorities and other stakeholders to improve the effective implementation of country programmes in the field, reach national objectives, and strengthen local and national ownership;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to work closely with national Governments and United Nations country teams to incorporate the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework model, or equivalent, and to engage actively with the "One United Nations" initiative;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue its constructive collaboration with intergovernmental mechanisms such as the Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization and the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing, in addition to others that could provide opportune vehicles for driving policy change and programming and regional and national prioritization of sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

7. *Notes with appreciation* that, on 1 January 2015, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme made a successful transition to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and in this regard requests the Executive Director to achieve the full implementation of the enterprise resource planning project, Umoja, by June 2015 and to ensure adequate training of staff;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide a conducive framework for realizing a model that links normative and operational activities, thus paving the way towards achieving well-defined and more tangible results for greater impact in the field;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen capacity-building activities in order to support the achievement of sustainable urban development in accordance with the strategic plan for 2014–2019 in the light of its potential contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session.